

IN THE CLAIMS:

**Please amend the claims as follows:**

1. (currently amended) A method for automatically creating and managing, for presentation to a student, an individually customized curriculum of study across a plurality of educational offerings, the method comprising:

preparing comprising

identifying a first educational institution, offering a first plurality of courses and a plurality of degrees, each degree thereof having corresponding requirements established by the first educational institution as conditions precedent for awarding the ~~degree~~; degree,

identifying a second educational institution offering a second plurality of ~~courses~~; courses,

comparing, by a computer system, text characterizing course content of the first and second plurality of ~~courses~~; courses,

identifying, by the computer system, equivalencies between courses of the first and second plurality of courses, based on the ~~comparing~~; comparing, and

storing in the computer system a database comprising records reflecting the ~~equivalencies~~ equivalencies;

presenting, by the computer system over a computer network after the preparing, the plurality of degrees to a student;

selecting, by the student over the computer network after the preparing, a first degree from among the plurality of degrees;

selecting, by the computer system after the preparing, first courses from the first plurality of courses and second courses from the second plurality of courses;

organizing, by the computer system after the preparing, the first degree into a dependency graph establishing a hierarchy of requirements corresponding to the first degree;

populating, by the computer system after the preparing, the dependency graph with the first courses and the second courses, the first courses and second courses collectively satisfying, according to the equivalencies, the requirements corresponding to the first degree; and

presenting to the student, by the computer system over the computer network after the preparing, the dependency graph to the student.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~further comprising~~ wherein the preparing further comprises

mining, over the network, by the computer system, first catalog information in a first course catalog corresponding to the first educational institution to identify the first plurality of courses, and

identifying the second plurality of courses by mining second catalog information contained in a second course catalog corresponding to the second educational ~~institution;~~ institution.

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, ~~further comprising~~ wherein the preparing further comprises:

creating, by a third party unaffiliated with the first and second educational institutions, a standardized coding system; and

~~parsing~~ delimiting analogous text in the first and second catalog information with standardized codes selected from the standardized coding system to enable comparison of the analogous text.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein ~~parsing~~ delimiting further comprises ~~parsing~~ delimiting the analogous text in the first and second catalog information with XML tags, and providing the analogous text in the form of XML pages available on the network.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein ~~parsing~~ delimiting further comprises embedding XML tags into the source code of HTML pages containing the first and second catalog information.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein ~~parsing~~ delimiting further comprises creating, by the third party XML pages identifying information in the first and second catalog information with XML tags.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein mining further comprises mining, over the network, information in the first and second catalog information by searching the standardized codes.

9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising selecting, by the student after the preparing, preferences with respect to the first and second courses used to populate the dependency graph.

11. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein preferences are selected from the group consisting of preferred times, preferred days, cost, credit hour load, desired time to graduate, and preferred location to take courses.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising gathering, by the computer system, scheduling information with respect to the first and second courses used to populate the dependency graph.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising creating, for the student by the computer system, a class schedule in accordance with the preferences and the scheduling information.

14-16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising importing, by the computer system after the preparing, existing credits of the student into the dependency graph prior to populating the dependency graph.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~computer network is the Internet~~ preparing occurs independently from all inputs from the student.

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein the computer network is a virtual network of logical elements stored on a mass storage device~~ wherein:

the identifying equivalencies further comprises creating, by the computer system, a plurality of sets, each set of the plurality of sets comprising all courses from within the first and second plurality of courses that are substantially equivalent to each other in satisfying a degree requirement of a degree of the plurality of degrees; and

the storing further comprises storing the plurality of sets within the database.

20. (currently amended) A method for automatically creating and managing, for presentation to a student, an individually customized curriculum of study across a plurality of educational offerings, the method comprising:

preparing, independently from all inputs from a student, comprising

~~offering, by a first educational institution, identifying~~ a first plurality of courses and a plurality of degrees offered by a first educational institution, each degree thereof having corresponding requirements established by the first educational institution as conditions precedent for awarding the ~~degree; degree,~~

identifying a second educational institution offering a second plurality of ~~courses; courses,~~

~~parsing~~ identifying first text corresponding to the first plurality of courses and second text corresponding to the second plurality of courses delimited with XML tags to create XML ~~pages; pages wherein a first portion of the first text and~~ a second portion of the second text are delimited with identical XML tags to reflect an equivalence of data type therebetween,

~~the parsing, further comprising delimiting a first portion of the first text and a second portion of the second text with identical XML tags to reflect an equivalence of data type therebetween;~~

~~providing the XML pages on a computer network;~~

mining, by a computer system, the XML pages to create a record of courses selected from the first and second plurality of ~~courses; courses, and~~

storing in the computer system a database comprising records reflecting equivalencies between individual courses selected from the first and second plurality of courses;

presenting, by the computer system over the computer network after the preparing, the plurality of degrees to [[a]] the student;

selecting, by the student over the computer network after the preparing, a first degree from among the plurality of degrees;

populating, by the computer system after the preparing, a curriculum with selected courses from the record of courses, the selected courses collectively satisfying, according to the equivalencies, the requirements corresponding to the first degree; and

presenting to the student, by the computer system over the computer network after the preparing, the curriculum.

21-22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) A computer method, automatically creating and managing, for presentation to a student, an individually customized curriculum of study across a plurality of educational institutions, the method comprising:

preparing, independently from all inputs from a student, comprising

identifying a first catalog authorized by a first educational institution and setting forth a first plurality of courses and a plurality of degrees, each degree thereof having corresponding requirements established by the first educational institution as conditions precedent for awarding the ~~degree~~; degree,

identifying a second catalog authorized by a second educational institution and setting forth a second plurality of ~~courses~~; courses,

creating, by a third party independent from the first and second educational institutions, a standardized coding system comprising a plurality of standardized ~~codes~~; codes,

~~parsing~~ differentiating text from the first and second catalogs by data ~~type~~; type,

delimiting data types using the plurality of standardized ~~codes~~; codes,

comparing, by a computer system, first text from the first catalog to second text from the second catalog, the first and second texts each being delimited by the identical standardized code of the plurality of standardized ~~codes~~; codes, and

identifying, by the computer system based on the comparing, equivalencies between courses of the first and second plurality of courses;

presenting, by the computer system over a computer network after the preparing, the plurality of degrees to [[a]] the student;



selecting, by the student over the computer network after the preparing, a first degree from among the plurality of degrees;

selecting, by the computer system after the preparing, first courses from the first plurality of courses and second courses from the second plurality of courses;

populating, by the computer system after the preparing, a curriculum with the first courses and the second courses, the first courses and second courses collectively satisfying, according to the equivalencies, the requirements corresponding to the first degree; and

presenting to the student, by the computer system over the computer network after the preparing, the curriculum.

24. (new) The method of claim 23, wherein the identifying equivalencies further comprises:

creating, by the computer system, a plurality of sets, each set of the plurality of sets comprising all courses from within the first and second plurality of courses that are substantially equivalent to each other in satisfying a degree requirement of a degree of the plurality of degrees; and

storing the plurality of sets.

25. (new) The method of claim 20, wherein the storing further comprises:

creating, by the computer system, a plurality of sets, each set of the plurality of sets comprising all courses from within the first and second plurality of courses that are substantially equivalent to each other in satisfying a degree requirement of a degree of the plurality of degrees;

and

storing the plurality of sets within the database.